

Mandela, Tambo meet in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, friends and allies long separated by the fortunes of their campaign against apartheid, met Monday for the first time in 25 years and talked about old times. "It was an emotional meeting" and went on for "some time," said African National Congress (ANC) spokesman David Kgoshog. He declined to give details, saying that the two men would meet every day during Mandela's week-long visit to Sweden. Mandela and Tambo last saw each other in London in 1962 during one of their trips outside South Africa to muster support for the ANC. The years since then took a toll. Mandela returned to South Africa and was jailed for 27 years for plotting against white-minority rule. Tambo remained in exile, leading the campaign for black majority rule. ANC president until he suffered a stroke seven months ago, Mr. 72, he is recovering in a Stockholm clinic. Mandela, 71, was freed last month when the ANC was legalised by South African President F.W. de Klerk as steps towards white-black negotiations.

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Vote postponed on Soviet presidency

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament postponed a vote Monday to give Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev sweeping powers as executive president, including a right to rule by decree. Debate on the measure, opposed by many radicals fearing a slide towards dictatorship, and deputies from some outlying Soviet republics, was adjourned until Tuesday. Gorbachev, 59, is already the most powerful man in the country as Communist Party chief and head of state, but his legislative powers are limited and largely formal. The new post of "president of the Soviet Union" would make Gorbachev equivalent to American and French heads of state. In some ways a Soviet executive-style president would have wider powers than these Western elected leaders. He would have authority to impose a state of emergency, rule by decree and to appoint and dismiss ministers. The measure needs the support of two-thirds of the 2,245 deputies. Radicals opposed to the new presidency claim the support of several hundred members from outlying republics which fear its powers will impinge on their sovereignty.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Carter in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived Monday for a three-day private visit, his first stop in a Middle East fact-finding tour. He will have lunch with President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday and leave for Syria on Wednesday. Kenneth Stein, director of Middle Eastern studies at the Carter Centre in Atlanta's Emory University, said last week the former president's tour also will include Syria, Jordan and Israel. Stein is accompanying Carter on the trip.

Egypt gets Saudi assistance

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia Monday promised Egypt \$25 million to help it make the Sinai desert bloom with water pumped from the Nile River. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Minister of Finance and National Economy Mohammad Ahal Khalil as saying King Fahd had ordered the Saudi Development Fund to provide 94 million Saudi riyals (\$25 million) for the project. Ahal Khalil said the fund, the kingdom's main aid agency, would also extend loans of 207 million riyals (\$55.2 million) and 64 million riyals (\$17 million) for a sugar plant and a highway. The road would link Cairo with the southern city of Assuit. SPA quoted the minister as saying.

Djohar declared winner in Comoros

MORONI (R) — Interim President Said Mohammad Djohar won the second round of the Comoro Islands' presidential election with 54 per cent of the vote, the Ministry of the Interior said Monday. The results were immediately "contested" by Djohar's rival, Mohammad Takil, who complained of widespread fraud in Sunday's vote on Anjouan Island, which accounts for a third of the Comoro's 400,000 population.

Briton sentenced in Egypt for corrupting minors

CAIRO (AP) — A judge convicted a British man Monday of corrupting minors and sentenced him to a year in prison. The case was the second in less than a month with a Western man facing similar charges because of alleged sexual liaison with young boys. Judge Saad Zeinoun, chief of Cairo's Agouza misdemeanors court, pronounced the verdict and the sentence against Paul David Samson, 39. Samson, who had pleaded innocent, is free on bail of 200 Egyptian pounds (\$76) and was not in court. He has 10 days to appeal and will remain free until any appeal is settled. Zeinoun said.

Shevardnadze delays Japan visit

TOKYO (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze has postponed a planned visit to Tokyo in March because of his tight schedule, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Monday. The talks were expected to focus on Soviet-Japanese relations, including the sticky question of the Kuriles, four northeast islands that are the subject of a territorial dispute between the Soviet Union and Japan.

S. Yemeni women stage-march

ADEN (R) — Breaking new ground in South Yemen, about 70 women paraded through the streets of Aden Monday demanding freedom for political prisoners the government denies it holds. They said they had proof their menfolk, missing since bloody battles in a 1986 coup, were still alive in the country's jails. Women have equal rights under the Marxist constitution but the demonstration was the first women's march in years. South Yemen has been thawing out its political life in preparation for a merger with North Yemen. Witnesses said mothers, sisters and wives toured the main streets before going to the presidential palace to meet President Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas. According to Aden's news agency Attas told them all political prisoners were released under a 1987 amnesty.

Tunis meeting urges more support for intifada

Arab ministers call for summit on Jewish influx

TUNIS (R) — Arab foreign ministers called Monday for Arab heads of state to meet urgently to discuss the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

An Arab League spokesman said the call was a recommendation and, for a summit to take place, an Arab head of state would have to say he was willing to host it.

A statement issued after a regular meeting of foreign ministers said the league would step up contacts with the Soviet Union and other countries from which Jews are emigrating "to explain the dangers to peace and the rights of the Palestinian people."

The meeting said ministers should speed up plans to visit Moscow, Washington, Peking and European capitals as part of an Arab offensive against the emigration.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Iraq, Syria and Tunisia were to have visited Moscow last weekend but the visit was put off because of the Arab League meeting.

The Soviet Union has condemned the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories but the only practical concession the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has been able to obtain is a Soviet agreement to withhold approval of direct flights between Moscow and Israel.

Israel expects up to half-a-million Soviet Jews to arrive over

the next few years and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said earlier this year a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate them.

Many Soviet Jews who would normally have emigrated to the United States have chosen Israel instead because of Washington's introduction of quotas on refugees.

Arab summits usually take weeks to prepare and it was likely that one would take place before the U.N. Security Council debated Soviet Jewish emigration later this month, diplomats said.

The league statement said the ministers called on Arab countries to support the intifada in the occupied territories by increasing contributions to UNRWA, the U.N. agency which looks after Palestinian refugees.

They should also try to persuade the United States to reverse its decision to cut its support for UNRWA, it added.

'Friendly compromise'

Tunis Monday described arrangements for the Arab League's return to Cairo as a friendly compromise and said the status of Tunis afterwards would be similar to Geneva's in the United Nations system.

Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil told a news conference that under the agreement reached Sunday

the league would set up a "second centre" in Tunis to complement the Cairo headquarters.

"We could not say a second headquarters because that would have meant amending the Arab League Charter, which would have been too complicated," he said.

The charter specifies that Cairo is the headquarters. An Arab summit moved it temporarily to Tunis in 1979 after Egypt signed a treaty with Israel but did not amend the charter.

The text of the agreement, distributed by Khelil, says a committee grouping the foreign ministers of Iraq, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and Oman and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Khleil will define the exact functions of the Tunis office.

"We adopted the word 'centre' but, according to the discussions we had, centre in the sense of headquarters, rather like Geneva in relation to New York," Khelil said.

Tunisia had fought to retain the headquarters and when that seemed impossible it tried to delay the transfer for up to two years. Egypt wanted the league to move as soon as possible.

The Arab ministers agreed that the return would take place over a year and Tunis would retain three pan-Arab institutions.

"It was a package deal, a friendly compromise... there was no rancour at all," Khelil said.

Information Minister Latif Nassif Jasseem said:

"We consider the fabricated fuss against us a flagrant interference in our internal affairs because our measure had fully responded with Iraqi law which sentences any spy to execution."

Jasseem, in a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said: "The case was tried fairly and the two were convicted and sentenced in the presence of the British consul and in accordance with the laws applied in Iraq."

The committee also said that it would ask the government to issue a detailed statement defining its position with regard to persons dismissed for political reasons. It said that the government would be requested to ensure their reinstatement.

Fears rise of fresh

Aoun-Geagea war

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Troops of renegade General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen exchanged machinegun and rocket fire in east Beirut Monday, increasing fears that all-out inter-Christian war could break out again.

One soldier was killed and three people, including an LF militiaman and a child, were wounded in the clashes concentrated around Ashrafieh district, security sources quoted by Reuters said.

The nearby museum crossing, the only link between east and Muslim west Beirut, was closed at noon because of the exchanges.

The fighting was another breach of an 11-day-old ceasefire that halted merciless tank, arti-

lery and rocket battles for control on Lebanon's Christian enclave.

At least nine people have been killed and 10 wounded in similar clashes since Friday.

They said the rival forces also fired occasional rocket-propelled grenades into each other's positions in Badaro.

More than 810 people have been killed and 2,650 wounded since the inter-Christian fighting erupted Jan. 31 when the LF refused to heed an Aoun order to disarm.

The close-quarter use of tanks and artillery devastated whole residential, industrial and commercial neighbourhoods.

Witnesses said on Monday that

(Continued on page 3)

EC joins British pressure on Iraq

LONDON (Agencies) — European governments, journalists and relatives appealed to Iraq Sunday for clemency for a London newspaper reporter sentenced to death and for the British nurse imprisoned after being found guilty of helping him spy.

A delegation of European Community (EC) ambassadors went to the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad to make a "humanitarian appeal" for Farzad Bazoft and Daphne Parish, the EC said in a statement.

British Ambassador Harold Walker said he made a separate trip to the ministry to deliver a personal appeal from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain would also be talking to its allies in the next few days "to see what support they will give us in pressuring the Iraqis."

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Soviets begin troop pullout from Hungary

HAJMASKER, Hungary (AP) — Soviet troops associated with the bloody crushing of the 1956 anti-Communist revolution began pulling out Monday, with the last of the 49,700 Red Army soldiers

scheduled to be out by mid-Jan.

Hungary is the second of four East European countries with a Red Army presence to negotiate a full Soviet withdrawal from its territory. Last month Prague and Moscow agreed to the removal of 75,500 Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia, which began Feb. 26.

The pullouts from both countries are scheduled to be completed by June 30, 1991. That means the Soviet Union is committed to pulling back 123,200 troops from countries on the East bloc's front line within 14 months.

Both agreements are indepen-

dent of any accord reached at East-West troop reduction talks under way in Vienna.

The withdrawal from Hungary began barely two weeks before citizens are to cast ballots March 25 in their first free multi-party elections since the Communists consolidated power in 1948.

Some opposition figures have suggested that a new government might seek to renegotiate the withdrawal agreement with Moscow to move forward the completion date.

The Soviets also have six air-

ports in Hungary, according to Deputy Chief of Staff Jozsef Biro, who released details of the Soviet presence for the first time two weeks ago.

Hungarian radio reported Saturday that the two governments are still negotiating on the property being left behind by the Soviet troops.

According to a Hungarian radio report Saturday, two-thirds of the withdrawal of Soviet troops and equipment is to be completed by the end of this year.

Peres gets party mandate to bring down government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Labour Party Monday blamed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc for undermining peace efforts and authorised party leaders to bring down the coalition government.

Vice-Premier Shimon Peres told the 1,300 members of the party's central committee that Shamir was stalling and would not respond to U.S. peace proposals.

"We have reached a conclusion that Shamir will try to run a policy of saying neither yes or no. He will try to avoid the decision and will pull us into the desert of indecision," said Peres, leader of the party.

British Ambassador Harold Walker said he made a separate trip to the ministry to deliver a personal appeal from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain would also be talking to its allies in the next few days "to see what support they will give us in pressuring the Iraqis."

The party members approved a vaguely worded, two-point resolution with only one member dissenting.

The resolution said Likud prevented a cabinet vote on essential issues relating to the peace process" and this threatened the continuation of diplomatic efforts.

It authorised the party leadership and the 39 Labour members of the 120-seat parliament to "determine the parliamentary moves necessitated by the situation."

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Iranian radicals urge not to free hostages

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The leader of Iran's radical faction has said some of the foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon were spies and argued against releasing any of the "mercenary U.S. hostages."

The comment came in an editorial signed by Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and published Saturday in Tehran's Persian-language Kayhan that was made available to the Associated Press Monday.

Also Monday, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that the son of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini accused the United States of falsely trying to imply that ties with Iran are improving.

Mohtashemi, a former interior minister who heads the faction that opposes President Hashemi Rafsanjani's opening to the West, attacked those who suggest Iran should help get the hostages freed.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot and should not impose its policies and views on other Muslim nations," he wrote. "Furthermore, the freedom of the hostages means breaking the chains of bloodthirsty wolves."

"The sentence for a spy in an Islamic country is death," Mohtashemi wrote.

The Westerners held in Lebanon are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is Terry Anderson, 42 chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. He was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

Mohtashemi said a recent call for the hostages' release in the Rafsanjani-aligned Tehran Times and similar comments by Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim spiritual leader Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah "heightened the pressure on the Islamic Revolution and the Muslims of Lebanon."

"Instead of putting pressure on the wronged Lebanese Muslims to release the mercenary U.S. hostages, world public opinion should look for the centre of hostage-taking at the White House and among Western and American intelligence services," he wrote.

Referring to the disappearance of four Iranians in north Lebanon in 1982, Mohtashemi claimed "the four Iranian diplomats were taken hostage in Beirut when it was under the security cover of the NATO Multinational Forces."

He was referring to the force that was sent into Beirut in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It was never deployed in north Lebanon.

Rafsanjani repeatedly has said he would be willing to help gain the release of the Western hostages if it can be ascertained what happened to the four Iranians.

The four disappeared at a Lebanese Forces militia checkpoint 40 kilometres north of Beirut.

Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Geagea said in August 1988 that after he took over the militia in 1986 he found no trace of the missing men and blamed his predecessor, Elie Hobeika,

for their disappearance and apparent murder.

Geagea's disclosure was the first formal comment by the militia that it had been involved in the seizure of the missing Iranians. All four men are believed dead.

Mohtashemi said "according to documents found, the United States and the West have been involved in dozens of terrorist operations against Muslims and Islamic figures."

He claimed that some of the hostages were spies for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), specifically naming Terry Waite, the British envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury who disappeared in west Beirut in January 1987. The church has denied this.

Mohtashemi also said Col. William Higgins, who his captors said in July 1989 that they had executed, was a spy for the CIA. The United States has denied this.

Ayatollah Khomeini's son Ahmad said Washington was trying to create the impression that "relations between Iran and the United States are so close that when a person impersonates the Iranian president and calls up the U.S. president, he easily talks to that person," IRNA reported.

He was referring to an incident a month ago when U.S. President George Bush spoke on the phone to an imposter who claimed to be Rafsanjani.

His comment echoed editorials Sunday in two radical Tehran newspapers.

OIC to discuss exodus of Soviet Jews

NICOSIA (R) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has convened a special committee to discuss what it termed the danger of the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel, the Islamic News Agency (INA) said Monday.

It said the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Committee of Experts next Saturday would be attended by delegates from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Malaysia, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Morocco and Senegal.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, did not say where the gathering would take place. Jordan, Saudi Arabia, serves as the headquarters for the 46-member OIC.

The agency quoted Nabil Ma'arof, OIC assistant secretary-general for Palestine and Jerusalem affairs, as saying "we must take the necessary step for the Islamic nation's participation in facing this danger."

The new Jewish influx to occupied Palestine is aimed at driving more Arabs from their land and replacing them with Zionist settlers, with future expansion at the expense of neighbouring countries to realise the dream of greater Israel."

The Arab World has been alarmed by the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union, with about 5,000 a month arriving in Israel, fearing the emigrants will move into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and displace the Palestinian majority.

Aid workers urge action on Ethiopia

Kabul coup leader vows to fight on

ISLAMABAD (R) — Former Afghan Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai, accused of leading last week's failed coup against President Najibullah, was quoted by a rebel news service as pledging to continue his fight. He said those parts of the military still siding with him wanted to form an interim administration after consulting Western-backed Mujahideen guerrillas as a first step before holding elections, according to the Afghan News Agency (ANA). Najibullah says Tanai and his colleagues fled to neighbouring Pakistan after last week's attempted coup. Islamabad, which backs guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government, denies he is in Pakistan. "The war will not finish unless Najibullah is removed," Tanai was quoted as saying by the ANA which is run by the Hezb-I-Islami guerrilla party of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. "The Afghan military is determined to overthrow him." Hekmatyar, the most radical of the Pakistani-based guerrilla leaders, announced support for Tanai immediately after he launched his coup last Tuesday with the aerial bombing of the presidential palace in Kabul. But most other guerrilla groups have declined to take sides, calling the coup a tussle between what they call two Communist factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Senegalese president in Morocco

RABAT (R) — President Abdou Diouf of Senegal held talks with King Hassan in the South Moroccan city of Agadir Sunday, breaking his homeward journey after visiting Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He said on arrival they would discuss the next summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference which is due to be held in Dakar. Diouf also said he would brief King Hassan on the African Socialist Conference to be attended in Cairo. Diplomats said the talks probably covered relations between Senegal and Mauritania, soured since last year by ethnic violence and border incidents.

2 killed in Sudan train accident

KHARTOUM (AP) — Two young men were killed and four others injured while falling off the roof of a crowded train that derailed in northeastern Sudan, a statement by the Sudan Railways Corporation has said. The statement said the victims, who were travelling illegally, fell to the ground when some of the cargo wagons derailed Saturday off a line linking Khartoum with the Mediterranean town of Port Sudan in the east. It said two 20-year-old men were killed. One 20-year-old man and three teenagers were also wounded. It said a fact-finding committee had been formed to investigate the accident. The accident took place at the Ogar station which lies between Atbara which is 280 kilometres northeast of Khartoum and Haifa which is 300 kilometres northeast of the capital. It said the crowded train had destroyed the passenger and cargo wagons, with many men travelling on the roofs of the wagons, a common sight in Sudan.

Turkish say leftists plotted killings

ANKARA (R) — Turkish police, battling a surge of political violence, said Monday they had captured a group of armed leftists believed to have planned to assassinate two retired generals. The five leftists, two of them women, were captured after a clash in Hatay province near the Syrian border Friday. Police said they belonged to the Revolutionary Communist Party — an underground

Bashir voices positive developments for peace

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military leader predicts that mediation by Zaire will in coming days produce "positive developments" that could end the civil war in southern Sudan.

A hint of what Lt.-Gen. Omar

Hassan Al Bashir was speaking of came Monday with publication of an official statement signed by him and President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, whom Bashir visited Sunday.

The statement said Mobutu called on both Bashir's government and southern rebels to lay down arms to implement a ceasefire, with negotiations to follow on ending hostilities.

While the wording of the statement did not say that Bashir specifically agreed to a ceasefire, his signature on the statement indicated he was amenable to the idea.

Arriving from Zaire's capital Kinshasa Sunday night, Bashir said dual-track consultations are under way between Mobutu's and Bashir's governments and between Mobutu's government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The Sudanese leader expressed optimism for "positive developments" in the next few days. Hundreds of thousands of people, mainly southern civilians, have died in the 7-year-old conflict, either from the fighting or from famine it caused by disrupting the south's agricultural economy.

In power since last June, Bashir's government held inconclusive negotiating rounds with the rebels last August and December. Mobutu has been trying in recent weeks to bring the two sides together for a third round of talks.

The heart of the centre is the

museum, with a collection of the

world's "most valuable and priceless manuscripts of the Koran," according to Kanoo.

The collection includes the first edition of the Koran in Latin by Dr. Martin Luther, as well as versions in other languages. A last-minute contribution in the form of a translation in Welsh was offered by British embassy Third Secretary Stephen Hartson, himself a Welshman, provided by his parents Joy and Tim from Cardiff.

The marble-tiled exterior of the building resembles pages of the Koran, complete with engraved verses and chiseled classical Islamic art embellishments.

The centre comprises a mosque, school, lecture hall, library and museum.

The mosque has a capacity of

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Draft copyright law goes to Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — A draft copyright law has been referred by the government to the Lower House of Parliament for debate and endorsement. Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki said Monday.

Jordan has been observing an Ottoman copyright law enacted in 1912 which has become obsolete and does not provide proper protection for writers, the minister said.

"The new law would ensure that all works by writers, painters, lecturers, musicians, playwrights, cinema producers, sculptors, graphic artists, cartographers, designers, and photographers among others will be protected," the minister said.

Karaki said that violators of the proposed law would face a minimum penalty of three-month imprisonment and payment of JD 500.

"Recent developments in the field of writing and publishing, and the presence of a large number of organisations which deal with publications and distribution of books and other materials, and the government's agreements with other parties necessitates the enactment of the new law," the minister said.

The new law will also facilitate dealings with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and other Arab countries and international organisations, he added.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab health ministers meets in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — General health conditions in the occupied territories, AIDS, and a general medical strategy for the Arab World were to be among the main topics for discussion at an Arab health ministers meeting in Cairo Monday. Minister of Health Mohammad Al Zaben was leading Jordan delegation to the conference, which will also discuss the prospect of training health staff from the occupied Arab territories, providing support for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and ways to support the state of Palestine's demand to join the World Health Organisation (WHO). The executive bureau of the council met Monday and approved the agenda of the conference.

CAEU to discuss inter-Arab ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will participate in the meetings of the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation due to start in Abu Dhabi Wednesday. The meeting will discuss inter-Arab cooperation in the field of investment guarantee and the annual report of the corporation's activities and programme for the current year. CEAU Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim will represent the council in the meetings.

RJ invites U.S. students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has invited three students to Jordan after conducting market research studies on Jordan's tourism in the United States. The three students, from Cornell University, won free tickets and a 15-day stay in Jordan.

Survey studies poverty cases

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Social Development Department in northern Jordan Valley district is conducting a survey to study cases of needy families in the district whose monthly income ranges between JD 41 and JD 70 in order to assign monthly allocations for them. The department, in cooperation with local councils, has started studying the living conditions of families whose monthly income is below JD 40 in 11 areas. Within the context of the department's efforts to tackle the problem of poverty the department is monthly presenting JD 10,000 in the form of aids to 290 needy families.

More water tankers for south

AMMAN (Petra) — Authorities have decided to increase water tankers allocated to governorates in south to compensate for shortage of water resulting from insufficient rainfall. This decision was in implementation of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan's directives following his visit to Karak, Maan and Tafileh governorates. It was also decided to operate two wells in Abour and Zidba regions in Tafileh governorate.

JMA employees support intifada

AMMAN (Petra) — All employees at Jordan's Medical Association (JMA) have donated part of their monthly salaries to support the Palestinian intifada in the occupied Arab territories. The employees requested that part of their salaries be cut monthly and channelled to the occupied lands. The employees said that this will last until the intifada accomplishes its goals and the State of Palestine is established.

Zarqa factories to move

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa municipality committee decided to transfer all brick factories and tile businesses from Zarqa's various neighbourhoods to the new handicraft region, north of Zarqa, because of noise pollution they cause and because they do not meet safety requirements. The committee set March 31 as the deadline for moving and after that water and electricity will be disconnected from those who disregard the order.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of plastic artists Arif Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al-Nasrullah at the Housing Bank Complex.

* Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Haimeed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

* Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mahmood Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Al Abed at the Yarmouk University.

* Art exhibition displaying paintings on glass and silk by Wafaa Tarawneh and Awfi Al Khadid at the Professional Associations Complex.

LECTURE

* Medical lecture on leishmania at the seminar hall of the American University of Beirut Alumni Club — 7:30 p.m.

* A lecture, in French, entitled "De Gaulle, l'Homme de la Jeune" by Philippe Ric at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

* Seminar on the role of the press in the democratic change process at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

* Soviet film entitled "Five Evenings" at Abdul Haimeed Shoman Foundation — 7:00 p.m.

* German video entitled "Stalin" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and UAE Minister of Electricity and Water Resources Hamid Ben Naser Al Uweis sign an agreement on cooperation (Petra photo).

Jordan, UAE to boost ties in energy, electricity fields

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday signed a memorandum paving the way for cooperation in energy and electricity related issues.

The two sides also discussed cooperation in water and irrigation fields.

The signing took place after two days of talks between a UAE delegation led by Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs Hamid Ben Naser Al Uweis and Jordanian officials including Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf.

Under the terms of the memorandum, the two countries will cooperate in conducting studies, training personnel and consultations related to joint projects in energy and electricity. They will cooperate in ways of improving electricity production, and also in preparing tender documents for projects related to power networks, distribution of power, setting up thermal power stations, the installation of turbines, the construction of solar power units and wind energy equipment.

They will also exchange information and expertise on financial and administrative affairs re-

Regent meets UAE minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday stressed the importance of cooperation between Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in energy and water affairs in a meeting with the UAE minister. The Prince said that Jordan is willing to offer any help in these fields and ready to cooperate with UAE in conducting maintenance services at water and energy centres.

They discussed cooperation in water and irrigation fields and the exploitation of water resources and improving the standard of water supply systems.

Khalaf told the visiting UAE minister that running water now reaches 97 per cent of the Jordanian population and that sanitary and sewage services reach nearly 42 per cent. Khalaf briefed Uweis on irrigation projects being carried out by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and other economic and social development schemes under implementation in the valley.

JVA Secretary-General Mohammad Bani Hanu gave details about farming and said that plans were being prepared for transforming all open canals into pressurised irrigation to save water lost through evaporation.

Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mu'tazz Al Bilbeisi briefed the UAE minister and the delegation accompanying him on water distribution programmes, especially during the summer, sewerage projects and experiments in the country.

The three ministers later met Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Badran also met with Khalaf and

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Committee plans sit-in

(Continued from page 1)

the government to give assurances that the General Intelligence Department would not play a role in the hiring and firing of employees in the public and private sectors.

The subject of "interference" by the department in the appointments of personnel was brought up by parliamentarians in Lower House deliberations with the government and the deputies received assurances that the department would no longer have any role in such issues.

Addressing about 250 people gathered at Sunday's meeting, Khairy and the committee's deputy chief, Dr. Samir Yassin, said that parliamentarians had not been able to help the dismissed in their plight.

"We want to expose the parliamentarians who have not fulfilled their promises," said Khaled

Yassin continued. "There is no compensation for those who were dismissed. We call on the government and the private sector to reinstate the dismissed people immediately at their old salaries. This is not being done," Dr. Yassin said.

While many of the dismissed persons attending the gathering said they wanted monetary and "moral" compensation, Dr. Yassin stressed the importance of reinstatements of the dismissed employees with salaries that would also allow for the passage of time since the dismissals. "A doctor before his dismissal may have had a salary of JD 500. Today if he is appointed to the same position he may get JD 200. Not only is the salary significantly less, the buying power has also diminished," he argued.

The people who were dismissed have to apply for jobs as

everyone else," Dr. Yassin continued. "There is no compensation for those who were dismissed. We call on the government and the private sector to reinstate the dismissed people immediately at their old salaries. This is not being done," Dr. Yassin said.

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Energy Minister Moshe Shahal of Labour was dismissive about effort to save the government dominated by Likud and Labour.

"The problem in my opinion is not in formulae," Shahal said. "I believe Shamir cannot reach any formula that will bring about peace."

The workshop is organised in cooperation with the American Soya Beans Association and the American Grain Council.

Participants will inspect primary materials used for production of animal feed for livestock and poultry and will be oriented on testing ways to ensure the safe use of these materials.

Taking part in the workshop are experts from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Mexico and the U.S. in addition to Jordan.

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and The Embassy of Bulgaria in Jordan present

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Saturday, March 17, 1990 at 8 p.m.

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The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620.

Jordan stresses interest in promoting international links

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is keen on promoting cooperation between national and international institutions and on pursuing a dialogue designed to promote culture and education, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday.

Jordan is also interested in promoting Arab and Islamic studies and national heritage and interaction between Arab and international cultures, the Regent said in a brief address at the opening of a two-day conference by the International Baccalaureate School (IBS), which opened in Amman Monday.

Later, Prince Farhat chaired the first session meetings which discussed educational developments in Jordan and the Arab World. The participants reviewed a paper on secondary education in Jordan submitted by two senior officials from the Ministry of Education.

Present at the opening session were cabinet ministers and a number of deputies and educationalists.

Education Mohamad Hamdan and the chairman of the IBS's constituent council. They both praised cooperation between IBS and the Ministry of Education to offer educational services to Jordanian students and to help promote the educational system in Jordan.

Huda meanwhile reported that the ministry has no plans of raising the prices of poultry meat. The ministry has now launched intensive campaigns around the country to ensure that stores selling poultry meat are abiding by regulations and selling at prices fixed by the ministry, the minister said. Some merchants have already been fined for manipulating prices or for boarding merchandise, he said.

Ministry of Supply officials said that a vessel with imported fresh poultry meat had docked at Aqaba and the quantity it carried should suffice the Kingdom and leave a surplus for future use. Whenever there is a shortage of

poultry meat on the local markets, the officials said, the ministry opens its warehouses and makes up for the shortage.

They said that the country's average monthly consumption of poultry meat was 5,000 tonnes and local production was insufficient to meet this demand.

The officials said that the Ministry of Agriculture was cooperating with the Ministry of Supply in a study to determine the causes behind the local poultry industry's failure to meet the demand. They added that the two ministries plan to adopt a strategy by which the country should become self-sufficient of poultry meat.

Supply ministry gears up to meet Ramadan food needs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply is making arrangements for increased availability of food supplies and other commodities to cope with the consumers' needs during the month of Ramadan.

A ministry spokesman said that directors of supply departments in the Kingdom had been called for a meeting March 19 to discuss working papers dealing with their respective districts' needs of food supplies during Ramadan, which is expected to start March 27. The meeting will discuss ways of ensuring continued supplies for the market during the Holy Month, the statement said.

Minister of Supply Nabil Abul

Traffic violations meeting calls for national strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on traffic violations and their relations to road accidents opened here Monday with a call from the government for a national comprehensive strategy to reduce road accidents, and working papers discussed in the first two sessions echoed the need for such a plan.

The call was voiced by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Saleh Masaadeh, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in opening the two-day symposium organised by the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSOPRA) in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD).

Masaadeh said that defining a national strategy should involve the participation of various public sectors and other organisations to make it effective and lasting.

"Jordan's leadership is deeply

concerned over the increasing number of road accidents which cause the loss of human life — the most precious asset in Jordan — and the loss of funds which are badly needed for development," he said.

A two-day meeting held last October to discuss road accidents in Jordan showed that a total of 18,038 road accidents occurred in the Kingdom in 1988, causing the death of 364 people and the injury of nearly 10,000 others.

"There is no point of enacting laws that remain only on paper. If the public does not react favourably and conform to the rules of traffic then the laws are not effective," Masaadeh said Monday.

"Traffic police, students, pedestrians, workers, motorists and road users should cooperate and help avoid all forms of accidents on the road so as to make the streets a safe place," he said.

PSD representative Muayyed

Workshop opens on animal feed testing

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan Monday opened a regional workshop on microscopic testing of animal feed. Eight countries in addition to Jordan, which is represented by delegates from the private and public sectors, are attending the three-day event.

Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture Sadiq Khader, addressing the opening session, stressed that Jordan, like countries with similar conditions, has to make do with the existing fodder stocks.

Khader said that the cost of animal feed accounts for nearly 75 per cent of livestock production cost and most of the feed was imported.

"Some farmers rely on their own normal methods of examining the quality of fodder, but microscopic examination has better results and costs less," Khader said.

The workshop is organised in cooperation with the American Soya Beans Association and the American Grain Council.

Jordan Times

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Wisdom at a dangerous turn

THE APPARENTLY unbridgeable division between the Labour and Likud parties over U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks may have to lead the two competing blocs to turn to the Israeli voters to decide once and for all which way Israel wants to turn: Peace or war. There may well be no escape from this ultimate test in the wake of Sunday's inner cabinet meeting which substantiated the long held fears that Israel is deeply divided on the issue of war and peace. Even if the leadership of the two parties can succeed in artificially sustaining the life of the national coalition government under the joint leadership of Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, it will be only a short time before the cohesion between them will collapse under the strain of the hard decisions that Tel Aviv must make on peace talks with the Arabs. Which way the Israeli electorate would turn is still open to conjecture, albeit there are growing signs that the political mood in that country is turning to the right and in the direction of the Likud party. This of course would spell disaster not only to the Arab side but also to the Israeli people themselves who have a vested interest in promoting peace and security in the region. All the peoples of the Middle East, including the Israelis, are therefore at a dangerous crossroad. How the Israeli voters cast their votes in any new elections would thus have a tremendous bearing on the lives and well-being of present and future generations in the Middle East.

Meanwhile it is incumbent on the Arab side, especially the Palestinians, to cultivate Israeli public opinion with the next Israeli elections in mind. There are faint voices from within Israel calling for peace and accommodation with the Arabs and the potential of building on those positive constituencies will always be there, provided the Arab side plays its cards intelligently and wisely. In other words, the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, have to be ready with the right message for the Israeli public now as well as at any other time in the immediate future. Needless to say, communication with the Israelis who want and seek peace with the Arabs can take many shapes and forms and is not necessarily confined to formal negotiating tables. After all, everything the Arab side does or says is a form of communication as far as their enemies are concerned. That is why all Arab political moves must be measured and calculated with a view to having the optimum effect on the Israeli voters in these trying times.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I daily said Monday that the United States had lost its credibility by proving itself unable to deter Israel's practices and irresponsible actions. As a result, it said, the Middle East will be facing more and more dangers. The paper said that the United States and Israel had been working hand-in-hand to abort the idea of an international conference on the Middle East, and had been trying to offer the world in general and the Arab Nation in particular an alternative solution which can only be of benefit to Israel alone.

Whatever the Israelis and the Americans offer now is not feasible for achieving a lasting settlement since what they offer does not support the concept of exchanging land for peace, said the paper. As the U.S.-Israeli alliance continues to fight the idea of an international conference, Israel, for its part, has been intent on escalating its atrocities and repressive measures against the Palestinians, the paper continued. To deal with the absence of U.S. credibility and Israel's intransigence, the paper said, the Arabs should reconsider their position carefully and should take proper measures to ensure solidarity concerted and collective action so as to secure their rights and their lands.

Writing to Al Ra'i daily Monday columnist Salab Abdul Samad criticises parliament deputies for requesting this Saturday's session be held behind closed doors and says that it is important for the public to know the facts about one of the most delicate topics — corruption and the country's debts.

The columnist says that the people who elected deputies did so in the hope that their representatives would not only protect the people's rights but also monitor and control the executive authority's performance. The masses' right to know everything that goes on in the government should be respected because, after all, it is the people who pay the price and it is the people's interests which are at stake, the writer continued. He says that certain parliament sessions could be held behind closed doors if they are dedicated to discussing such delicate questions as military and armed forces affairs, but all other sessions should be open to the public because the people want to know all the facts.

He says that in the election campaign deputies had been very candid and open in their accusations and the debates over the budget and confidence in the new government were no less stormy and sometimes boisterous. Why then should discussions over the questions of corruption and national debts be held in secret? asks the writer. He says the masses have the right to know the facts so that they can determine those elements responsible for their present difficulties and also because they have the right to monitor the actions of the government and alike.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily expressed belief that the current developments in the Middle East would lead to one direction: war. The paper quoted statements by American officials in the Reagan administration as saying that the Jewish immigration to Palestine, Israel's intransigent position and Shamir's plans can only lead the Arabs to loose hope of regaining their lands and rights by peaceful means. The paper said that any war that might break out in the region should be squarely blamed on Israel's irresponsible actions and its disregard to the rights of the Palestinian people. Indeed, said the paper, Israel's continued actions against the uprising and the settlement of Jews on Arab land is tantamount to a declaration of war on the Arab states.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Adjusting right along . . .

IN the economic realm, the people of Jordan have travelled a rough and uncomfortable road during the past two years. I do not want to add my retrospective assessment of why and how we put on one of the greatest displays of national economic mismanagement and irresponsibility in the second half of the 20th Century. We do need to assess the mistakes of the recent past in order to make sure that we do not repeat them again in the near future, but that is an exercise which I and many other people expect to be initiated and conducted by the parliament.

Rather, we need to concentrate today on getting through the difficult years that lie ahead, and particularly on trying to forge a new national economic model that would define a more realistic relationship between the government, the private sector and the ordinary citizen — a relationship whose pivotal and most essential component is honesty and truth.

The economic adjustment process we are passing through is not an academic exercise; nor is it a macabre form of nationalistic radical chic, in which we have to reach and peer over the edge of being an economic basket case in order to show that we, too, are a modern country capable of the inaptitudes that are the prerogative of sovereign states and rational individuals. It is painful and humiliating, and, if not carefully counter-balanced by social equity policies, can endanger people's wellbeing, particularly the physical and mental development of the young.

Economic adjustment is an uncomfortable and risky business. It does not always work smoothly or quickly — Sudan and Syria have been adjusting since the early 1980s, Egypt since soon after the creation of the world — and it entails real hardships that are translated into the daily food, clothing, education and shelter budgets of every family in the country. Economic adjustment is also a rather clever and fancy term coined by some bureaucrats economists somewhere in a dispassionate and detached office more welcoming to statistics than to real people. It would be more honest to talk about what economic adjustment really entails: dropping standards of living, lower per capita GNP, curtailed government spending, fewer public sector job opportunities, rising unemployment, less imports, currency devaluation, rising inflation, lower real purchasing power, severe constraints on family budgets.

That's the bad news. The good news is that all these uncomfortable dynamics should turn around the economy and relaunch it on a path of sustained real growth, more realistically based on exploiting domestic resources and less heavily reliant on foreign aid or inflows of remittances from abroad.

I believe that economic adjustment will work in Jordan, and we already have some relevant positive indications from the performance of the economy in 1989 — notably the rise in exports and the drop in imports, the stabilisation of the dinar, and the positive developments in reducing government spending and narrowing the budget deficit. These are only initial indicators. Much more has to happen before they build up sufficient momentum to

re-draw the economic patterns of the country in a rational manner.

I also feel that we have several very important national assets which will serve us well in the adjustment and post-adjustment period — if we do not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by our deep sense of scepticism and our bad habit of asking the government to provide us with all our needs. These assets include, most notably, a relatively highly educated and skilled workforce, a largely free enterprise economy in which private initiative can be translated into personal gain; a healthy diversification among our main economic sectors, including agriculture, light industry, mineral-based export industry, tourism and services; a strategic location amidst large oil-fuelled Arab markets to which we are tied through trade promotion agreements; similarly advantageous trade agreements with the European Community; the firm support of friends throughout the world who are committed to helping our economic development; and a government that has recognised its limits, and is learning to stay out of economic and administrative fields in which it has no business. The rescheduling of foreign debt, by providing breathing space, is also an important short-term advantage.

These factors, if properly mixed and exploited, will allow Jordan to get through the current adjustment and return to a path of sustainable, balanced and long-term growth by the second half of this decade. They are further helped by the important political factor that has been added to the Jordanian national equation: credible parliamentary life, and a more open, pluralistic domestic political environment in which government officials are increasingly held accountable to the people they serve. When people are involved in making the decisions that will affect their daily life and the future of their children, they will deal with national issues more seriously.

This is what is starting to happen today, and this process should become more mature and productive with every passing year. A key requirement, though, is for the government, the parliament, the media, the universities, the professional groups, and the scores of other grassroots institutions in the country to participate meaningfully in the process of national economic revival and political evolution. During the last two years, immigration was a subject that people were discussing often. Having been hurt badly, people were seriously thinking of responding to Jordan's national challenge by leaving the country. But should we be surprised by this? Isn't it rather logical for someone to leave a society in which he or she has no substantial opportunity to contribute to the marketplace of ideas and the debate on national issues, let alone to have an impact on how decisions are made? If your society doesn't treat you seriously and respect you, why should you reciprocate? Good question.

But also a question of the past, because circumstances have started to change today. Jordanians now have an opportunity to participate much more seriously in the debate on national issues

and, through parliament, in the decision-making process itself. But the process is still in its infancy. After all, it was only six months ago that parliamentary elections were held.

Yet, I sense that we still suffer from some of the bad old habits. The first is the assumption that the people should only be told what the government feels they should know. Whether in political or economic fields, we need considerably more information from the government on where we stand, particularly in economic fields. There are only a few cases where genuine national security, or the legitimate sensibilities of our donors and friends, require that substantive information be withheld from the public. If the people are required to do their share in turning around the economy, they need to be much better informed.

The second is that the government often still tries to cover up the hard realities by promising to take care of the people's every need. We are in our mess today precisely because successive governments over a period of decades tried to give the people of Jordan their every wish — schools, hospitals, low-cost houses, jobs, cheap imports, telephones, roads, and a feeling that manual labour was best left for imported workers. Like amenable mice in a comfortable cage with many little bottles for food and water, we adapted to our make-believe world with great facility, and went to the bottles often.

Now, as we need to shed our old habits and live more in line with our means and our capabilities, it is time for the government and the private sector to talk more honestly about what economic adjustment really means. It means lowering our standard of living, buying less of the consumer goods and foodstuffs we used to buy, working harder just to maintain the purchasing power of our family income, having to do jobs we used to leave for foreign workers. It means working our way out of our economic problems, rather than asking the government to bail us out as it always did before. It means seeing per capita gross domestic product decline in real terms. It means leaving the ranks of Singapore and the Thailands, perhaps only for a few years, and joining the ranks of the Mexicans and Philippines.

Some measures (such as the new personal income tax rules) indicate that the government has the awareness and the political will to assure social equity, to help protect the most vulnerable in society while asking greater sacrifices from those who can afford a drop in real income. More of the same needs to be done in the field of subsidies, education, health and other areas.

I sense that most people still have not come to terms with what economic adjustment really means. For many, it is a news story on the evening television news, something between Italian football league scores and the historic changes in Europe. It would probably be best for all concerned if the economic realities of adjustment were more openly discussed, so that the average man or woman on the street knew more clearly about the hardships and the opportunities ahead, and about precisely where we stand today.

East German election heading for stalemate

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

EAST-BERLIN — As East Germany's first free election campaign enters its last week, the country seems headed for a stalemate that would make a non-Communist "grand coalition" the only viable form of government.

Latest opinion polls for the March 18 election show the Conservative Alliance for Germany, backed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, catching up with the left-of-centre Social

Democrats (SPD), and neither bloc able to form a government without the other.

"It's going to be a neck-and-neck race," said Professor Walter Friedrich of the Leipzig Institute for Youth Research.

One conservative leader, Rainer Eppelmann of the Democratic Awakening Party, said at the weekend only a grand coalition with the support of more than 60 per cent of the electorate could negotiate German unification with Bonn.

But some Western diplomats believe such an outcome would

complicate and slow the talks with West Germany, making it harder to reach a consensus on key issues in East Berlin.

The effect of an East German grand coalition on the unity talks is hard to gauge.

Some left-wingers fear the conservatives, beholden to Kohl for their campaign finance, would undermine East Berlin's position in the negotiations.

"It would be like having Helmut Kohl on both sides of the table," a Social Democratic official said.

Only two weeks ago, the SPD looked to be rolling towards a landslide victory in next Sunday's ballot.

Untainted by any link with East Germany's former Stalinist rulers, ousted by a popular uprising last year, the party was quickest to build an organisation and boasted a magnetic figurehead in former Bonn Chancellor Willy Brandt.

Both parties have vowed they

— up to 15 per cent — to prevent either from being able to govern alone or in a narrow pact with minor parties.

The heroes of East Germany's revolution, the New Forum and Democracy Now movements which led the uprising last October, will be lucky to score much more than three per cent, the polls said.

The pro-Communist Berliner Zeitung said in an editorial: "It is quite possible that a vote for the SPD on March 18 will also help the (rightist) alliance for Germany to power."

A broad coalition would make it easier for the Social Democrats to blame the conservatives for much of the unemployment, inflation and social disruption likely to accompany economic and monetary union with Bonn.

That could prove important for West Germany's SPD as they challenge Kohl for power in a

general election next December.

The main argument against a grand coalition is that it could open the door to political extremists.

Analysts recall that under West Germany's only grand coalition from 1966 to 1969, the neo-Nazi National Democratic party nearly won enough votes to enter parliament and leftists staged street violence throughout the country.

The leftist urban guerrilla movement known as the Baader-Meinhof Gang was born during that period.

But others believe a grand coalition would help to maintain a national consensus about the difficult decisions to be made.

"I know from my friends running the SPD in this part of Germany that even if they won an absolute majority, they would form a government on a broader basis," Brandt told reporters in the border town of Frankfurt-an-der-Oder.

Libyans reassess the magic system

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TRIPOLI — Like a genie, Muammar Qaddafi's Libyan revolution, appearing from an oil well instead of a bottle, seemed only to give, never to take.

Now the magic can go no further, says Qaddafi and his aides.

The clash between popular expectations and economic reality set off extraordinarily candid debates this month at the annual meeting of the General People's Congress, Libya's parliament, which ended Saturday.

The government met a barrage of criticism that it has not built enough roads, schools or hospitals.

But the ministers replied: "We are not wizards. We do not have a magic wand... it's just not possible to go on like this."

Under the system elaborated by Qaddafi, decisions of the basic people's congresses are supposed to be passed up through branches and municipalities to the General People's Congress, where members have no right to express their own opinions.

In practice, over the past week, members repeatedly broke the rule and others intervened to reprimand them.

"A vicious circle," "A revolution without revolutionaries," "the state gives, the individual gets," are some of the descriptions applied to Qaddafi's 13-year experiment with direct democracy financed by oil revenues.

Siding with efforts to check the demands from the grassroots, one congress member said: "Everyone wants free health, free education, free everything, even free food. But when we discuss these demands, we must also discuss how to finance them."

A foreign publisher invited to the congress said: "If you ask people what they want and add it all together, you tend to end up with a policy which is not always very coherent."

Congress members are unanimous that the principles of the

system are sound — that the people, meeting in local assemblies, should dictate government policy and monitor its performance.

"Where else in the world does the individual have such an impact? Where else do people have such freedom?" asked one congresswoman.

Local assemblies, set up when enormous oil exports made balanced budgets unnecessary, have grown accustomed to demanding money from the government while offering nothing in return.

Ministers did not challenge the principles of the system but complained of irresponsibility and lack of realism. Qaddafi himself declared: "It is inconceivable that (the assemblies) should show such ignorance."

Cabinet secretary (prime minister) Omar Muntasseh hinted at a need to reassess the balance between local assemblies, the supreme authority in Libya, and those expected to carry out their orders.

"It may be necessary to amend the method of public policy so as to reconcile the exercise of authority through legislation and its implementation in reality," his annual report read.

Revolutionary militants in the congress objected to some of the ministers' comments, calling them provocative.

"It could be understood as an insult to the basic people's congresses, the sole authority. We may forgive this but we will not forget it," said one.

Another said: "The ministers blame the municipalities, the municipalities say they will study the proposals, the branches say they have no powers. In the era of the masses we are turning in a vicious circle."

In a heated debate on the work of the secretariat (ministry) of mass mobilisation and revolutionary guidance, several ministers or members lamented a lack of revolutionary commitment.

Andy Capp



Peanuts



'Exorcism is performed for people under the highest form of attack by an evil spirit — people who are no longer in charge of their own will.'

Disclosure of exorcism in New York hits theologians

By Kiley Armstrong
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Theologians have expressed surprise about Cardinal John O'Connor's disclosure that the rare rite of exorcism has been performed twice in New York in a year.

But other ceremonies dealing with evil spirits, including a baptismal prayer, are more common in the Roman Catholic church.

O'Connor mentioned the exorcisms during a sermon March 4, and to reporters afterward. He said rock music spiked with satanic lyrics created an atmosphere conducive to devil-worship and demonic possession.

The cardinal said the exorcisms were approved by the archdiocese's vicar-general and appeared to be successful, but gave no other details. He also said the novel, "The Exorcist," is a "gruesomely authentic" portrayal of demonic possession.

According to a story published Dec. 12 in the San Francisco Chronicle, Pope John Paul II recently increased the number of exorcists in Rome and in Turin, where there are a reported 40,000 devout worshippers.

Police in the State of Indiana has recently asked an unidentified priest to pray and sprinkle holy water in a house after they saw a radio, a vase and other objects inexplicably move. They had been called to investigate a possible burglary after the resident came home and found smashed dishes, windows, a lamp and eggs. A 14-year-old relative who had been staying there was believed to have been involved in devil worship, authorities said.

The Rev. Simon Harak, a theology professor at Fairfield University, a Jesuit school, said that exorcism, recognised in the church's book of rituals, is performed for people under the highest form of attack by an evil spirit — people "who are no longer in charge of their own will."

Exorcists are confidential; no figures are kept on the number performed in the United States, said Bill Ryan, spokesman for the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, D.C.

Although channelling — the phenomenon of spirits speaking through humans — has similarities to demonic possession, the spirits that emerge in channelling, however, are supposed to be good, not evil, according to the Rev. James T. Burchell, theology professor at Notre Dame University, another Roman Catholic school.

Exorcism existed before the time of Christ, but is rare in modern times, and both Burchell and Harak said they were surprised there would have been two exorcisms in a year in New York. Harak noted the rite may gain prevalence in times or places of satanic worship.

"In the Gospels, there's quite a bit of reference to Jesus not only healing people of diseases but freeing them from diabolical possession," Burchell said.

"Even since then, there have been outbreaks of similar behaviour," he said. "It was found that when very holy priests were sent to pray for and about these very troubled people, there would be an increase in the behaviour, then eventually a complete liberation from it."

Exorcism is more common in countries where Christianity is not well established or where other influences, such as voodoo, come into play. Since the 1970's, exorcism has been performed only by a priest approved by a bishop, archbishop or cardinal.

"If you ask most bishops in the country, 'who is your exorcist?' they probably wouldn't have one. It's an ad hoc thing," said Burchell. "Probably a number of bishops would be surprised to hear there were two in New York," one of the largest dioceses in the nation.

Typically, he said, an exorcist must be a "very self-possessed, consistently holy man" to survive the experience. "It involves a great deal of self-abuse, bodies being flung around the room, exorcism, assumed voices — it's pretty vile stuff."

The average Catholic would have no first-hand information to speak of," he said. "The damn movie ('The Exorcist') is going to be the image everybody has. But,

I must say, events in the movie are very faithful to stories I've read" about real exorcisms.

A battery of medical and psychological tests is ordered before someone undergoes exorcism. "If a person has lapses, for instance, and periodically has seizures where they go out of control, that's a chemical imbalance," said Harak.

But there also are informal rites to get rid of, or guard against, demons.

Harak said a standard, pre-baptismal ritual contains "three scruples that are really rites of exorcism that have been kind of tamed in the church."

"It's a recognition that there are good spirits, angels, and bad spirits, devils. And the evil spirit hates human nature," Harak said.

The church also has a practice called deliverance for ridding "infestations of evil spirit" less serious than possession, said Harak. They are performed somewhere in this country every day, by laity as well as priests.

"Usually, the name of Jesus, holy water, holy oils, prayers of communion are so powerful that these deliverances are not difficult. Many of us do them."

"Say yo've been fooling around with an Ouija board, or the more modern thing, dungeons and dragons. You chant incantations and stuff like that." Those practices could make you susceptible to evil spirits, he said, especially if you have a psychological or emotional problem.



This pile of rubble has been a landmark in the centre of Dresden for four and a half decades. The statue of Martin Luther, foreground, used to stand in front of the finest Baroque church in central Germany. Plans are now taking shape to rebuild Dresden's famous Frauenkirche — (Photo: DaD/dpa)

A memorial for peace and freedom

DRESDEN (DaD) — Like a finger raised in warning, remnants of the old walls peep out of the pile of rubble that for 45 years has been all that is left of the Frauenkirche in Dresden. Once the finest Baroque church in central Germany, the Frauenkirche, destroyed on Feb. 13, 1945 in British and U.S. air raids, is not just any church. Its ruins have come to symbolise the desire for self-determination of people in the former Saxon royal capital.

During last autumn's popular uprising, they were a meeting-point for many protest demonstrations. The city and the Protestant

Church now plan to rebuild the church to its original plans. They are confident of financial support and encouragement from the Protestant Church in the Federal Republic of Germany, which largely financed the reconstruction of the Dom, or cathedral, in East Berlin.

The Protestant people of Dresden built Frauenkirche between 1726 and 1739 as a protest against the Saxon royal family's conversion to Roman Catholicism. Its cupola was the hallmark of the City's skyline. Since the 1945 air raid in which 35,000 died, people have regularly met on Feb. 13,

for a candlelight procession in protest against the militarisation of public life, for peace and freedom and against the claim of the ruling SED to sole power. It was, for years, a silent protest. Then, on 8 October 1989, the people of Dresden, like fellow-demonstrators in Leipzig and East Berlin, chanted the slogan "Wir sind das Volk!" (We Are the People).

The ruined church thus became

a meeting-point of the popular uprising in the GDR. This new significance has prompted a civic initiative to campaign for rebuilding of the church, complete with its old tower. The campaigners

include many public figures in the GDR, restorers of historic monuments and leading Saxon Protestant clergymen. Their spokesman is the internationally renowned trumpet soloist Ludwig Güttler. They are hopeful of support from the Federal government in Bonn. Reconstruction of the Frauenkirche in Dresden is to be more than just the reconstruction of a historic monument. It is planned as a gesture to mark the end of shock caused by the 1945 air raid in which much of the city was destroyed and of the standstill brought about by 40 years of communist rule.

CAIRO, Egypt — After years of argument over the future of the Pyramids — and what to do about damage to the Sphinx in particular, the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO) has embarked on a new renovation programme. This has coincided with the recent inauguration of a sewage draining scheme for the Pyramids area, the first practical step to protect the 4,800-year-old Sphinx from rising sewage water.

The magnificent limestone figure, on the outskirts of Cairo and said to depict the Pharaoh Chephren, has been deteriorating ever since a protective covering of sand was removed from its 240-foot high body in the 1920s. Its exposure took place just as rapid industrial, agricultural and tourism development began in Egypt. Each sector has added to the physical pressures on Egypt's heritage of Pharaonic, Roman, Christian and Islamic monuments.

The sewage draining scheme is aimed at cleaning up the squatter settlement at Nazlet Essman, which has mushroomed over the last decade in the shadow of the Pyramids, drawn by the dollars of the thousands of tourists who arrive daily in their huge tour buses. Waste water from the village is absorbed by the porous limestone from which the Sphinx is carved and eventually crumbles the rock.

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The sewage scheme is aimed at cleaning up the squatter settle-

"After surviving for 4,800 years, one of the world's oldest monuments, the Sphinx, is under assault from the advance of civilisation — threatened by rising human sewage, smoke and car exhausts. Now Egypt has a programme to save the monument."

The high-sulphur petrol used by the city's one million cars emit sulphuric and ottric emissions which attack the surface of the Sphinx and other monuments, producing a thin crust, says Dr. Al Goresy, an Egyptian scientist. "With the sand storm, these thin layers are sand-blasted and a fresh surface becomes exposed."

This constant removal of the surface has led to a loss of detail of the Sphinx's features which will soon be impossible to restore. Work will begin soon on bonding the cracks which give rise to serious concern, especially since part of a shoulder fell off two years ago, prompting the dismissal of the then chairman of the EAO.

Its new head, Professor Sayed Tawfiq, told journalists in Cairo recently that work was going ahead on the Sphinx. He said the situation was critical and that renovations had started with the aim of restoring the monument to its 1962 condition. UNESCO and the Getty Conservation Institute are providing help.

Tawfiq's urgency in proceeding with the restoration of the Sphinx, which is still suffering from former hasty interventions, is in sharp contrast with the World Bank's difficulty in getting EAO to respond over the restoration of four Pharaonic tombs suffering the effects of Egypt's outstanding success in encouraging tourists to visit historic sites.

At the end of last year, despite four extensions of the deadlines for a restoration loan, the EAO lost over \$5 million from the bank (to be repaid over 40 years at 0.25 per cent interest) earmarked for works to protect these exquisite and delicate tombs.

Tawfiq had dismissed the elegant prototype proposed by the Swedes, for the protection of the murals of the Tomb of Nakht, as being too "like a boutique". The EAO failed, however, to come up with an alternative plan during the decade in which the credit was available.

Tourism is currently Egypt's number two foreign currency earner, generating over \$2 billion in 1989. Having heavily backed Egypt's tourist industry, the World Bank is nervously alert to the fact that an Egypt with decayed antiquities will attract few tourists — PANOS features.

Know-how equals muscle-power in Eritrea

By Paul Highfield

WINA, ERITREA: The garage in which Zaid, a mechanic, works is unusual. It is a simple, space enclosed by shrubs and trees. These camouflage it against air attack. The working day is a grueling 11 hours.

Senait, who repairs radios and other equipment a few kilometres away, also has an unusual working environment — in an underground workshop. Two other unusual things are that neither Zaid nor Senait is paid, and both are young women.

They graduated from one of Africa's most remarkable technical schools in a country torn by civil war. Zaid and Senait are Eritreans, citizens of a region in its 29th year of armed struggle for independence from Ethiopia.

The two women are "fighters," a term applied to any member of the Eritrean people's Liberation Front (EPLF), the de facto government in most of rural Eritrea. The EPLF has many civilian departments, as well as a large army which fights a two-year course at the EPLF's first;

trench and guerrilla warfare with captured weaponry. No EPLF member receives pay.

Zaid and Senait studied at the Zero School, started 1985, where 4,000 boarding students live in a narrow mountain valley. Many are orphan. The war is never far away from the children's minds, though the EPLF tries to provide a settled and peaceful environment. This is not easy when warplanes scream overhead and students have seen their parents killed in their villages.

After completing Grade 7, Zaid, Senait and 80 other students left Zero to begin a two-year course at the EPLF's first;

purpose-built technical school, at Wina in Sahel province. They were to become the first of a new generation of technical workers trained to assist Eritrea's development.

At the time of the 1974 revolution, when Haile Selassie was overthrown by the Derg provisional military administration council which governs Ethiopia — many technicians fled from the cities. Others were killed during this period of repression and technical schools in Eritrea were closed.

Some technicians went abroad, others to areas controlled by the EPLF. But their numbers were

small compared with the need, which greatly increased as the EPLF expanded its rural development programme for road construction, health and other services. Technicians were overworked and almost all young, newly-trained technicians were being produced.

This led to the decision to build the new technical school with an all-Eritrean teaching staff.

Of the first intake, half were young women, taking courses in woodwork, electrics, construction, vehicle repair or metalworking.

They cannot always study their first choice because each class

must have a minimum number of pupils. But one of them said to me: "We study what we need to study."

Adapting to a technical culture in a rural society with higher than 80 per cent illiteracy is not easy for girls or boys, even at the most basic level — how to handle and look after a radio, for example, or even to turn the pages of a book without doing damage. But the youngsters there are highly motivated.

Activities at the school reveal a high degree of self-reliance and resourcefulness. Workshops produce doors and windows from captured ammunition boxes while cooking utensils are fashioned from the beaten metal of donated cooking-oil tins.

The girls are used to hard physical work. It is not uncommon to see them returning in pairs from an eight-hour trek to the mountains, carrying huge tree trunks for house construction. Recently a girl won first prize in construction — PANOS feature.

Paul Highfield is a British development worker in Eritrea.

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Libya's \$4 billion foreign reserves remain untouched

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya has succeeded in maintaining its foreign exchange reserves despite pessimistic economic forecasts and expansive commitments to massive development projects.

Libya earned \$7.5 billion from oil exports in 1989, about \$1 billion more than expected, and managed to leave the central bank of Libya's gross foreign reserves of \$4 billion untouched, according to figures presented to parliament.

The International Monetary Fund, assuming lower oil revenues, forecast that Libya would have to draw down the reserves by \$1.2 billion in 1989.

Oil revenues in 1990 are likely to be higher, thanks to firmer prices and a small increase in Libya's OPEC quota, but two billion dinars (\$6.9 billion) of the income has already been allocated, Libyan officials said.

The great man-made river, a pipeline to bring water to the coast from underground reservoirs in the southeastern deserts, will cost 300 million dinars (\$1 billion) to finance during 1990, central bank governor Moham-

mad Al Zaroug Rajab said.

The project, expected to irrigate about 100,000 hectares, is Libya's top priority.

Rajab said the country would spend another 300 million dinars in foreign exchange on a new power station at Misrata, urgently needed to save industry from power cuts which regularly hold up production.

The third major project is the iron and steel complex at Misurata east of Tripoli, which has just started production and which will need 150 million dinars (\$515 million) in hard currency to operate during 1990, Rajab added.

Rajab said 14 per cent of oil revenues went towards the cost of producing and exporting the oil. That would take up another \$1 billion in foreign exchange.

Commitments which the government cannot cut sharply are the cost of hiring foreign workers of about \$400 million a year, and about 250 million dinars (\$850 million) for food imports.

Once these commitments are fulfilled, the government's next priority is imports of raw mate-

rials and spare parts. Libya's factories are running at about 50 per cent capacity, mainly because they are in short supply.

The balance leaves little room for luxuries and Rajab said he was disappointed the Libyan people had not decided to suspend foreign travel allowances for several years.

Under the present system, Libyan adults are entitled to 300 dinars for each two-year period. Almost everyone tries to take advantage of the allowance and the General People's Congress (parliament) heard many complaints that the central bank had been slow in disbursing them.

Rajab said he would do his best to pay the allowances but made it clear they were not a priority.

The congress asked the government to ease the foreign exchange situation by pressing the country's debtors to repay Libya's loans. But officials said most of the debtors, many of them in black Africa, were in dire economic straits.

The GCC has encouraged members to diversify from oil production and use cheap and abundant gas supplies to promote petrochemicals. But the industry faces tough competition, tariff barriers and uncertainty in world demand.

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf petrochemical producers are considering forming a federation to increase the efficiency of the industry and formulate a joint strategy.

"There is a feeling now for the formation of a federation of petrochemical producers to have a data bank on development and technology cooperation," said Mustafa Al Sayed, general manager of the Bahrain-based Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company.

He told Reuters after a two-day conference in Bahrain that industry ministers from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states would have to approve the plan.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain can produce more than 11 million tonnes a year of petrochemicals and fertilizers, most of it from Saudi Arabia's 12 petrochemical plants.

The GCC has encouraged members to diversify from oil production and use cheap and abundant gas supplies to promote petrochemicals. But the industry faces tough competition, tariff barriers and uncertainty in world demand.

Delegates at the meeting, which ended Sunday, said the federation plan did not include ideas to coordinate prices, which would be left to trends on the open market.

"Most of the products from petrochemical industries in the Gulf are export-oriented," said Abdullah Nojaidi, president of SABIC Marketing, the sales arm of Saudi Arabia's big petrochemical concern.

"When you are exposed to export markets you are bound to the fluctuations in the markets," he said in an interview.

The European Community (EC) has imposed up to 13.5 per

cent customs duties on GCC petrochemicals to protect its domestic industries. Around a quarter of GCC petrochemical exports are destined for the Community.

Conference delegates said the fast expanding Asian market was their main target although production capacity there was also expanding.

They said the GCC advantage of using cheap gas as a raw material would offset the drawback of being far from markets.

Most GCC states are also planning to boost shipping fleets to reduce dependence on hired ships.

Gulf officials also plan to stimulate demand at home. "There has to be a minimum requirement for some of the basic products to be consumed within the GCC to have stable prices," Nojaidi said.

But delegates said the GCC market, with a population of 17 million, was too small to absorb the bulk of the production.

To expand the Gulf market, officials are urging the private and public sector to invest in secondary or downstream products, used in plastics and detergents and produced from the basic products coming out of the current plants.

Nojaidi said this would increase demand for the basic products and help protect them from world price and demand fluctuations. It would also substitute for imports.

He said secondary products had more added value and were not as vulnerable to price fluctuations as basic ones.

Meanwhile, Kuwait is set to approve a multi-billion dollar petrochemicals complex as part of plans to boost exports of refined products, sources close to Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah has said.

"The emir, the crown prince

and the Higher Petroleum Council are all in favour of the project.

The cabinet too,

but it referred

the plan to the Supreme Planning Council to discuss final details," one official close to Sheikh Ali

told Reuters.

The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), chaired by Sheikh Ali, proposed the eight-plant petrochemicals complex in August 1989. Experts said it would cost more than \$2 billion.

KPC officials are confident that

Sheikh Ali,

who has placed his

weight behind the project,

will win government approval within weeks.

They said the project, likely to be opened to international bidding, would create several other associated industries and reduce the country's dependence on crude exports.

"I think there is initial acceptance... it is a matter of time," said another official close to Sheikh Ali.

The minister made a presentation

at the Supreme Planning Council Saturday but the session broke after an hour due to other appointments by its head, Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, officials said.

Further debates are due later this month. If the council grants endorsement, experts believe production could start by 1994/1995.

Sheikh Ali held side meetings

with council members to rally support for the project which will use ample domestic naphtha and natural gas as feedstock.

Kuwait could either import gas

or increase output of associated

gas from its oil fields. It produces some 1.9 million barrels per day (b/d) and has 92 billion barrels in estimated oil reserves.

The complex would produce

low and high density polyethylene,

ethylene glycol, polystyrene,

styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 13, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Delays, limitations and frustrations can make your life difficult at the beginning and the end of your day but you have an opportunity to accomplish a lot in between.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Influential men and women are both aware of your social savoir faire. Harmony and concord should now exist at your residence.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't be upset over a distant matter or person that is not working out as you desire. Get ready for an interesting jaunt with a family member yet to come.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) Outside partners will cue you in on the best way to handle daily activities. Follow your own judgement about the partners to invite into your home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Group activities with a new set of friends would be excellent for you socially. Show happiness about associating with allies you enjoy with attachment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Intimate friendships now can be realized on a one-to-one basis. Get off with your attachment where you can be most romantic.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Put off that dinner date at home until a later time. Be happy going to places of entertainment with your attachment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A change in interests will bring on a change in some associates. Put off some entertaining at home until a more propitious time.

Conable tells Dhaka to improve macroeconomic management

DHAKA (R) — World Bank President Barber Conable Monday said he was worried about the myriad problems facing poverty-stricken Bangladesh and called on the government to improve macroeconomic management.

Bangladesh must find a balance between priorities and utilities in planning macroeconomic development and improving the quality of life of its people," he told a news conference at the end of a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

"I think there has been some unnecessary delay in disbursement of the funds and we are trying to speed it up," Conable said.

He acknowledged the Bangladeshi government's efforts to improve economic management, saying: "I am encouraged by the measures that the government has recently announced to stabilize the economy and curb unwarranted expenditures."

He declined to give details.

Bangladesh devalued its currency by 4.9 per cent last week and is powdering the bank's advice to raise the prices of natural gas and diesel and generate more taxes.

During his talk with President Hossain Mohammad Ershad,

Conable suggested allocation of a bigger share of development money to the social sectors and agriculture.

Bangladesh plans to ask for \$2.4 billion from a consortium of Western donor countries, agencies and the World Bank during the 1990/91 fiscal year, \$200 million more than this year's actual commitments.

Conable declined to predict the size of commitments at the consortium meeting to be held in Paris next April, but said Bangladesh's share from the International Development Association (IDA), the bank's concessionary lending affiliate, would not be slashed.

"Always we hear that changes in Eastern Europe would force reduction of IDA funds to Bangladesh and other such countries. I say Eastern Europe will not qualify for IDA money which is given to the poorest countries only," he added.

The World Bank and its affiliates have so far given \$4.5 billion to Bangladesh.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell
671.0	675.0
French franc	116.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	441.4
	444.0
	551.4
	554.2
Belgian franc (for 10)	43.3
	53.6
	188.1
	189.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6100/10	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1800/10	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
1.7065/72	1.9220/30	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
1.5130/37	35.46/51	French francs	Italian lire
5.7670/20	12.60/1261	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
152.15/25	6.1835/85	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
6.6025/75	6.6025/75	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	400.40/400.80		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Shares closed sharply lower in thin trading as a faltering yen prompted investors to sell off and head for the sidelines. The Nikkei Index was down 624.89 points, or 1.84 per cent, to 33,368.23 after rising 302.23 Friday.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng Index slipped 19.69 to 2,892.98 in lackluster trading ahead of the release of corporate results Tuesday.

SINGAPORE — Share prices drifted lower in sympathy with the Tokyo market. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 4.12 points to 1,582.06.

BOMBAY — The exchange was closed to let brokers complete business done in the two weeks ending last Friday.

FRANKFURT — Shares partially recovered from early losses to close 0.7 per cent lower. The DAX Index, down more than one per cent earlier, ended 12.66 lower at 1,846.08. The market was very quiet, with investors avoiding volatile West German shares amid uncertainty over unification.

ZURICH — Shares recovered slightly from early losses but still closed lower. Investors stayed away after Wall Street's weak performance Friday and Monday's losses in Tokyo. The Swiss Performance Index fell 6.9 to 1,103.1.

PARIS — Prices were down but off their opening lows. The poor showing on European stock and bond markets dampened investor enthusiasm.

LONDON — Shares remained weak but above the day's lows in extremely thin afternoon trading. Investors retreated to the sidelines until a clear trend emerges from the market's recent volatility. At 1609 GMT the FTSE index was down 12.4 to 2,221.9.

NEW YORK — Profit-taking drove blue chips moderately lower by late morning. The Dow was down seven to 2,676.

Gulf Arab petrochemical producers plan federation

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf petrochemical producers are considering forming a federation to increase the efficiency of the industry and formulate a joint strategy.

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Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain can produce more than 11 million tonnes a year of petrochemicals and fertilizers, most of it from Saudi Arabia's 12 petrochemical plants.

World News

Top Muslim militant killed in clash with troops

Indian president warns Pakistan against interfering in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — President Ramaswamy Venkataraman Monday accused Pakistan of aiding Muslim secessionists in troubled Kashmir state and said India will not "tolerate such interference."

"Our relations with Pakistan have unfortunately come under strain as a result of its continued effort to encourage and aid terrorism and secessionist activity" in Jammu-Kashmir, he told parliament.

"My government has made it very clear that we will not tolerate such interference in our internal affairs," Venkataraman said in a speech to the joint meeting of both houses of parliament.

The speech, which opened the 75-day budget session, was broadcast live by state-run television and radio.

India has frequently accused Pakistan of arming and training militants fighting for secession of the northern, Muslim-dominated state of Jammu-Kashmir from predominantly Hindu India. Pakistan denies the charge.

Jammu-Kashmir is "an integral part of the India and my government will not brook any interference," the president said.

Parliament members clapped and thumped their palms on their desks.

The Kashmir issue has been one of the first major tests of the new government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh, who took office in December, replacing the Con-

gress Party's Rajiv Gandhi.

The Kashmir secession has been simmering since 1947 when India and Pakistan were formed by the partition of the British colonial India. Faced with the option of merging with either of the two nascent states, Jammu-Kashmir, then a princely state with a Hindu ruler, opted for India.

Pakistan claimed the state because of its predominantly Muslim population and has fought two wars with India over the region. Pakistan controls the Western part of the old princely state, while India governs the eastern portion.

Meanwhile, Indian authorities cancelled a scheduled curfew break in Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar, Monday after news spread that a top separatist militant was killed in a clash with security forces.

Fayaz Ahmad died in hospital Sunday night after he was shot by paramilitary troops during a gunbattle with militants in the narrow streets of Srinagar's old city.

Police said new tension gripped the city, the centre of a violent separatist revolt in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, as news of

his death spread.

They said they feared big protests if the curfew, which officials had tried to impose for most of the last two months to curb the violence, was temporarily lifted.

"We withdrew the curfew break as a precaution," said a top police official. "We will review the situation later."

Police said Ahmad, who was in his early 20s, was a senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the group spearheading the separatist revolt in the Himalayan valley.

Militants are demanding that Jammu and Kashmir be given independence or be made part of neighbouring Pakistan. Almost 200 people have died since mid-January when authorities began cracking down on pro-independence demonstrations.

In Jammu, the winter capital of Indian-ruled Kashmir, intelligence officials said the JKLF had turned down flat an approach from New Delhi on holding peace talks.

Railway Minister George Fernandes said in Srinagar last week while visiting leaders of Indian political parties that he had met people in touch with the JKLF with an offer of talks.

The intelligence officials, while refusing to name Fernandes, said Monday a cabinet minister had met professor Abdul Gani, head of the Muslim Conference Party

who had just been detained under anti-terrorist laws for alleged links to the militants.

The JKLF's answer was a refusal to negotiate and meant that nothing short of independence was acceptable, they said.

Pakistan said Sunday it was willing to hold conditional talks with India to resolve their dispute over it.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told political leaders she was willing to talk, "but not at the expense of our principles stand on Kashmir."

Pakistan denies India's accusations that it arms and trains Kashmiri rebels, saying the revolt stems from India's refusal to hold a promised plebiscite on Kashmir's future.

Kashmir has become the major problem for the three-month-old government of Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh. During every curfew break, protests are held and militants attack.

In Jammu, which is mostly Hindu, shops and schools closed Monday in response to a call from the chamber of commerce for a general strike in protest against Muslim violence.

At least 16,000 Hindus have fled to Jammu from the Kashmir Valley despite repeated Muslim assurances that the protests are political not sectarian.

S. African townships tense as violence subsides

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black areas of South Africa remained tense Monday although the death toll from political violence fell.

Killings, bombing and looting in black townships and homelands have been taking an average daily toll of six lives in recent weeks but police reported only two deaths in the past 24 hours.

A black policeman shot dead a man who tried to take his shotgun in poverty-stricken Botshabelo settlement in Orange Free State province and police found the stabbed body of a 15-year-old boy in Nancefield township in Transvaal province.

The deaths brought to at least 17 the number shot, hacked or burned to death in weekend violence as black youths around the country attacked the homes of black policemen and municipal officials, widely seen as traitors to the black cause.

Many of the gun, rock and petrol bomb attacks were met by police firing shotguns, pistols, rubber bullets or tear gas.

Hundreds of residents fled Vosloorus near Johannesburg Sunday when 1,000 Zulu migrant workers from Natal province attacked homes in the township.

The Zulus were taking revenge for the burning of their hostel Saturday in what residents described as spillover violence from faction fighting in a neighbouring township.

Patrick Lekota, a senior anti-apartheid spokesman, denounced looting that has accompanied protests in townships and many of the 10 tribal homelands.

Looters "are enemies of the people and have to be identified," Lekota told state television.

"We want to have freedom to do these things (demonstrate), but there are limits within which we can exercise that right."

A coup that toppled Ciskei's hated pro-Pretoria ruler Lemox Sebe last week and a demonstration against Bophuthatswana leader Lucas Mangope were marred by looting and arson.

Some 29 activists representing democracy groups ended a three-day hunger strike Friday after Batmunkh announced that the politburo would quit.

Batmunkh also proposed an

emergency session of the "great people's hural," or parliament, and said elections originally scheduled for 1991 should be held this year, ADN reported.

In a report to the Central Committee meeting, he called for a strict separation of party and state functions in Mongolia, the world's second oldest Communist state after the Soviet Union.

He stressed the government was ready to cooperate with new opposition parties and movements to draft a new constitution that would be submitted to the people for discussion.

ADN quoted Batmunkh as saying the past three months had been marked by "growing political activity among the people that expressed itself in the creation of new parties and movements."

He said, however, that every-

thing done in the isolated country since the Communists took power in 1921 could not be dismissed as a mistake.

Batmunkh also rejected the opposition's that Mongolian society was in a political, economic and spiritual crisis.

He appealed to all political forces in Mongolia, a vast land wedged between the Soviet Union and China, to work to preserve national unity and resolve "differences with civilised debate."

ADN quoted Batmunkh as saying that a "humanitarian, democratic socialism of a Mongolian character," and with a regulated market economy should be pursued.

Batmunkh's address was carried live by state radio and televi-

sion.

Four Mongolian opposition groups, the oldest of which has been active since last December, recently stepped up campaigns for a multi-party system to replace 69 years of Communist dominance.

The Communist rulers have rarely struck back at critics and granted the opposition concession after concession.

On Sunday, thousands of Communists staged their first rally in Ulan Bator since the opposition became active, criticising new reform groups as undemocratic and calling their leaders traitors.

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Security Council members seek Cambodian solution

PARIS (AP) — The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council Monday held their third round of talks since January to try to find a formula to end the Cambodian civil war.

Diplomats from the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain met behind closed doors for discussions expected to focus on the failure of a meeting between the four warring factions two weeks ago.

The Security Council members in January backed large parts of an Australian ceasefire plan to subdue Cambodia under United Nations rule until free elections can be held. They followed up those talks with another session last month in New York.

Analysts believe the plan offers the best chance in years to find a solution to the 11-year conflict.

But the combatants failed to agree to any of the major issues

in January when the party was near collapse."

Scandal is also in the air.

Wolfgang Schurz, leader of the conservative Democratic Awakening (DA) Party, is out of the campaign after accusations he worked for the hated Communist Stasi security police.

Overwhelmed by the allegations, which he strenuously denies, Schurz collapsed and is recovering in hospital.

His party, part of the three-way alliance for Germany, accepted his denial at a congress Sunday but launched an internal investigation into the affair.

Parachuting seemed tame.

Officials at the headquarters of East Germany's revamped Communist Party indicated Sunday that they would accept their defeat in the country's first free elections next weekend in good heart.

"There's a certain optimism in the air," said Michael Buetner of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the new name for the Communists.

"There's no comparison with

hit men hired by the traffickers. Gaviria pledged if elected to carry out Galan's reformist platform and the war on cocaine traffickers waged by President Virgilio Barco, who is constitutionally prevented from another term.

The Galan assassination touched off a war between Colombian drug lords and the U.S.-backed government of President Virgilio Barco.

The Barco administration has extradited 14 drug suspects since it announced an unprecedented campaign against the cocaine cartels only hours after Galan's death. The traffickers responded by shooting the bodies on returning from a night on the town.

"This backing from the Colombian people makes me very happy," Gaviria told reporters at his Bogota campaign headquarters. "I never thought I would win by such a wide margin."

Sunday's primary and other elections for federal, state and local office followed a night of political violence that left six people dead.

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hit men hired by the traffickers.

Pointing to scores of young voters milling around his information stand, he added: "The old leaders are out, new members are coming in and our credibility is rising."

The bulking grey headquarters building which symbolised 40 years of Stalinist rule still seems beleaguered. Even the equipment used to clean its facade is daubed with opposition slogans.

But the PDS, buoyed by the popularity of its new leaders, Prime Minister Hans Modrow and Gysi, is contesting the election in an upbeat mood even though there is little chance of victory.

"Don't worry, take Gysi," say the lapel buttons.

"Of course we can't win, but we can attract people to our new party," said Hans Jakob Buetner, a life-long communist.

Speaking against a backdrop of banners warning against a stampede towards unification on West German terms, Buetner told voters at an information meeting that only a strong left could prevent the next

government capitulating to capitalism.

Opinion polls suggest the PDS could win up to 15 per cent of the vote. Given the anger provoked by disclosures of communist spying and corruption, this may seem surprising.

But unsparing self-criticism has stripped the reformed party down to a bedrock of ideals which find a substantial echo in what used to be communism's wealthiest society.

In amateurish speeches from the floor, voters called for a society guaranteeing a job and free health care and housing.

They said they sought a society where human worth was not measured in money.

"Many more people are clearer now about what good things our society had before and what they stand to lose now," said Traudel Pietsch, who attended the meeting with her husband.

Buetner said the headquarters

was only a closed seat of power, forbidden to most East Germans, but "now it's open house to all and that has great symbolic significance."

X-indication missing information

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish fishermen lift blockade of 2 ports

ALGECIRAS, Spain (R) — Spanish fishermen reopened the southern port of Almeria Monday but said they would maintain a 12-day-old blockade of Algeciras until the government guarantees their protection against Moroccan fines on illegal fishing. Their colleagues in Huelva, another southern port where industries were being crippled by shortages of raw materials, ended their protest Sunday. Algeciras fishermen said they wanted a written pledge from the minister of agriculture and fishing, Carlos Romero, that they could fish in Moroccan waters without risking fines. Morocco has increased fines for illegal fishing tenfold. The dispute will be reviewed next Monday by a joint commission monitoring a four-year fishing agreement signed in 1988 between the European Community and Morocco.

Avril leaves Haiti for U.S.

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's former president, General Prosper Avril, flew out of Haiti for the United States early Monday, two days after resigning as president and head of the army, independent Radio Metropole said. "He left at 6:23 (123 GMT) on a green airplane for a brief stop in the United States before continuing to another destination," the radio said. It said members of his family and close aides flew out with him. U.S. embassy spokesman were not immediately available for comment.

7 activists detained in Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban authorities rounded up seven political activists, including a leading human rights advocate, in a crackdown on dissent, sources said. Human rights groups have said there has been a general crackdown over the past year on groups seeking greater political freedom in Communist Cuba. Samuel Martinez Lara, leader of the unsanctioned pro-human rights party, was detained Saturday, 17 days after completing a 10-month prison sentence, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday. He was among a group of activist sentenced to prison terms a year ago for trying to organise a rally in support of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during the Kremlin leader's visit to Havana. Also among the seven detainees was Tania Diaz Castro, who was released from prison last fall after serving a sentence for protest activities. She is not related to President Fidel Castro. There was no immediate official confirmation of the latest arrests.

2nd brother held in U.S. killing

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — The second of two sons charged with killing their millionaire parents at the family's mansion here quietly surrendered to police at Los Angeles International Airport. Erik Menendez, 19, had arranged through his attorney to turn himself over to detectives, said Beverly Hills Police Lt. Bob Curtis. He had been playing in a tennis tournament in Israel. "It was a very low-key thing," said Curtis. "They met him at the airport and arrested him for the murder of his parents. ... I don't even know how many people noticed what was going on." Menendez and his brother, Lyle, are heirs to the \$14-million estate of Jose Menendez, 45, an executive of a Hollywood video distribution company, Live Entertainment Inc. Menendez and his wife, Mary Louise "Kitty" Menendez, 44, were shot to death on Aug. 20 in their \$3-million mansion. The sons reported finding the bodies on returning from a night on the town. Lyle Menendez, 22, was arrested Thursday and held without bail pending a Monday arraignment. Police have said two killers committed the crime, then picked up ejected shell casings from the .12-gauge shotgun they used